LIBRARY

Newmarket Rural District

IN THE

Administrative County of Cambridge.

LIBRARY

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR

1948.

HOBBS, KING & PARR, SOHAM

To the Chairman and Members of the Newmarket Rural District Council

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to present for your consideration my Annual Report for the year 1948, on the Health, Sanitary Conditions, and Vital Statistics of the Newmarket Rural District.

The Report is prepared in accordance with the instructions contained in Circular 3/49 issued by the Ministry of Health.

ARTHUR MORGAN,
Medical Officer of Health

GENERAL STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Area: Land 80,856 acres.

Water 245 acres.

Number of Parishes: 22.

Rateable Value: £62,206.

Sum represented by a penny rate: £247 8s. 6d.

Number of inhabited houses according to the Rate Books: 6,278.

Estimated population: 20,840.

The whole district is agricultural in nature and there are no industries except those directly or indirectly associated with agriculture.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR.

LIVE BIRTHS:

	Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	314	161	153
Illegitimate	20	9	11
Totals....	334	170	164

Birth Rate per thousand estimated resident population 16·0

Birth Rate per thousand population (England and Wales) 17·9

STILL BIRTHS:

	Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	6	1	5
Illegitimate	3	3	–
Totals....	9	4	5

Rate per thousand total (live and still births) 26·2

	Total	Male	Female
DEATHS:	230	119	111

Death Rate per thousand estimated population 11·0

Death Rate per thousand population (England and Wales) 10·8

Deaths from Puerperal causes:

(a)	Puerperal sepsis	Nil
(b)	Other Puerperal causes	Nil
	Rate per thousand live and still births	Nil

Number of deaths of infants under one year of age:

	Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	3	2	1
Illegitimate	–	–	–
Totals ...	3	2	1

Death Rate of infants under one year of age:

(a)	All infants per thousand live births	8·9
(b)	Legitimate infants per thousand legitimate live births	9·5
(c)	Illegitimate infants per thousand illegitimate live births	Nil

	1948	1947	1946	1945	1944
Deaths from cancer (all ages)	55	41	27	39	34
Deaths from measles (all ages)	–	–	–	1	–
Deaths from whooping cough (all ages)	–	–	1	2	1
Deaths from influenza (all ages)	4	5	4	5	11
Deaths from diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	–	–	3	–	3

Birth and Death Rates for the last ten years as compared with 1948.

	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948
Birth Rate	13·8	12·3	13·3	13·7	14·5	14·6	18·5	17·1	16·1	18·3	16·0
Death Rate	11·5	12·7	13·7	12·8	11·1	12·0	12·5	13·2	11·0	13·3	11·0

NOTE: The death rates are uncorrected for age and sex distribution.

TABLE CLASSIFYING DEATHS UNDER AGE GROUPS.

	Male	Female	Total
Under 1 year	2	1	3
1 and under 2	–	–	–
2 ,, ,, 5	1	1	2
5 ,, ,, 15	–	–	–
15 ,, ,, 25	1	1	2
25 ,, ,, 35	1	3	4
35 ,, ,, 45	3	2	5
45 ,, ,, 55	10	7	17
55 ,, ,, 65	21	11	32
65 ,, ,, 75	35	16	51
75 and over	45	69	114
Totals	119	111	230

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY:—

(a) MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH. A whole time medical officer who also acts for the other Rural areas in the County of Cambridgeshire.

(b) Chief Sanitary Officer, Surveyor and Housing Officer—
W. H. Couperthwaite, A.M.I.S.E., M.R.S.I.

(c) Assistant Surveyor and Additional Sanitary Officer—
D. Howells, A.M.I.S.E., A.R.S.I.

(d) Additional Sanitary Officer—
F. H. Mason, A.R.S.I.

All sanitary officers are qualified inspectors of meat and other foods.

LABORATORY FACILITIES:—

Chemical and bacteriological examinations of water are made by the Public Analyst at Cambridge.

The Emergency Public Health Laboratory, Cambridge, made all bacteriological examinations that are required in cases of infectious diseases, etc. and also carry out Methylene Blue tests on samples of milk and ice cream.

HOSPITALS:—

There are no General Hospitals situated within the area. Cases of infectious disease are removed to one or other of the Isolation Hospitals under the control of the East Anglian Regional Hospital Board.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER SUPPLY:—

The well at Chippenham was completed during the year and test pumping results indicated a yield of approximately 40,000 gallons per hour. The well is 85 feet in depth with a 23½ in. bore continued to a total depth of 200 feet. The top 52 feet of the well with an internal diameter of 8 feet is lined with segmental concrete blocks, the top 20 feet of which are concreted in. The diameter at the base of the concrete linings is diminished to 7 ft. 9 ins., a 6 ft. x 4 ft. heading 75 feet in length, has been driven at a depth of 68 feet from the surface, and a 6 in. diameter borehole cuts right through this at a distance of about 70 feet from the well.

The main has been extended from Fordham to Chippenham and 1,199 yards of 3 in. and 2,368 yards of 6 in. asbestos cement mains have been laid.

Work commenced on the extension of mains from Burwell to Wicken and Upware and 2,900 yards of 4 in. asbestos cement mains had been laid by the end of the year.

A 4 in. cast iron loop main has been laid by the Mildenhall Rural District Council through the village of Kennett.

The Soham Waterworks is connected by a main with the Swaffham Prior Waterworks and any deficiency has been made up from the latter source. At Saxon Street special pumping arrangements have been necessary.

The total quantity of water pumped at the Waterworks during 1948 was as follows:—

	Totals	Average gallons pumped per week
Swaffham Prior Waterworks	35,725,000	687,000
Soham ,, ...	16,423,000	316,000
Saxon Street ,, ...	12,087,000	232,000
Burrough Green ,, ...	4,481,000	86,000
Stetchworth ,, ...	1,814,000	35,000
	70,530,000	1,356,000

Samples of the water from each of the waterworks were taken monthly and submitted to the Public Analyst for chemical and bacteriological examination. 121 samples were taken during the year and all proved satisfactory. A further 27 samples were taken from the new well at Chippenham and from new mains after chlorination.

Automatically controlled chlorination plants are installed at the three largest waterworks (Swaffham Prior, Soham and Saxon Street) and tests for residual chlorine are carried out as a routine.

The following particulars relate to the various parishes supplied from the public water mains and indicate the number of houses and estimated population supplied by connections to the houses or by standpipes.

PARISH	SUPPLY DIRECT TO HOUSES		SUPPLIED BY STANDPIPES	
	No. of houses	Estimated Population	No. of Houses	Estimated Population
Ashley	37	98	116	348
Bottisham	153	504	49	163
Brinkley	29	111	11	45
Burrough Green	33	99	34	102
Burwell	471	1490	142	456
Cheveley	356	879	69	160
Dullingham	94	312	46	182
Fordham	359	1325	99	367
Isleham	246	845	160	565
Kirtling	28	101	47	169
Lode	64	192	110	331
Soham	1319	4717	40	150
Stetchworth	48	162	84	302
Swaffham Bulbeck	110	356	57	183
Swaffham Prior	132	384	105	316
Westley	12	42	8	30
Woodditton	191	642	63	206
TOTALS	3682	12259	1240	4075

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE:—

The Regional Sewerage Scheme prepared by the Council's Consulting Engineers, for the Parishes of Soham, Burwell, Fordham, Isleham and Wicken, has now reached a stage when further developments may be expected.

The Engineers were also instructed to prepare a sewerage scheme for the Parishes of Bottisham, Lode (with Longmeadow) and Swaffham Bulbeck, utilising an existing sewage disposal works provided for an Ex-R.A.F. encampment at Bottisham.

The question of sewerage schemes for the remaining Parishes in the district (all of which with the exception of the small Parish of Snailwell are provided with a piped water supply) is kept constantly under review.

PUBLIC CLEANSING:—

The refuse and salvage collection service has continued to function efficiently and collections were made at three weekly intervals throughout the greater part of the district.

All refuse was disposed of by controlled tipping at the Burwell tip and the regular spraying of the exposed tip face prevented nuisance from flies and other insect pests.

The Council has decided to make collections at fortnightly intervals and an additional Scammell Refuse Collecting vehicle was ordered before the end of the year.

The income from the sale of salvageable materials during the year amounted to £797 6s. 5d.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

The following is a summary of the number of inspections made during the year:—

Slaughterhouses and butchers' shops	93
Bakehouses	79
Fried fish shops and other premises registered under Section 14, Food and Drugs Act, 1938	87
Miscellaneous Food Premises	24
Licensed Premises	86
Shops	139
Knacker's Yard	1
Factories	164
Cowsheds and Dairies	426
Refuse Tips	14
Infectious Disease	27
Rooms disinfected	25
Disinfestations (rooms)	28
Drainage and Sewerage	92
Sewage Disposal Works	156
Schools	6
Moveable dwellings	4

Dwellinghouses	370
Re-inspections of dwellinghouses	162
Nuisances	126
Building Bye-laws—New Drains tested	78
—Other Inspections	277
Miscellaneous	406
Building Licence Investigations	174

Samples taken:

Water....	152
Ice Cream	3

Two water samples taken from private supplies, were found to be unfit. One ice cream sample was declared unsatisfactory.

SHOPS ACT, 1934.

139 inspections of shops were made for the purposes of Section 10 of the Act. Where necessary, informal action has been taken to ensure that all premises comply with the Act, and the following works have been carried out:—

New sanitary accommodation	2
Washing facilities provided	1
Complete new premises	1

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS AND OTHER VERMIN.

Eight dwelling-houses were found to be infested with bed bugs and fleas during the year, and twenty-eight rooms and a quantity of furniture in store were disinfested by the use of D.D.T. powder, or a liquid insecticide.

Three bakehouses, which were found to be infested with cockroaches, were disinfested.

CAMPING SITES, ETC.

No licenses have been issued under Section 269, Public Health Act, 1936, authorising the use of land as camping sites, but four licenses in respect of individual moveable dwellings have been granted and four inspections carried out during the year.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

There are no public swimming baths in the district.

SCHOOLS.

Six inspections have been made and the following improvements carried out:—

New sewage disposal plant	1
Complete internal decoration	1
New sanitary accommodation	2

HOUSING.

Rural Housing Survey.

Owing to staffing difficulties it was again found impossible to complete the Housing Survey during the year.

147 dwelling-houses were inspected and the necessary details recorded.

The following is a summary of the number of dwelling-houses found to be in the various categories:—

CATEGORIES.

1	2	3	4	5	Total
Nil	51	91	—	5	147

The total figures since the commencement of the survey being as follows:—

463	1113	1185	—	192	2953

Housing—General.

Number of dwelling-houses inspected	377
Number of re-inspections made	162
Number of Informal Notices served	14
Number of Formal Notices served under Section 93 (Public Health Act, 1936)	1
Number of Building Licences issued for Repair, Maintenance, or Improvement of Dwelling-houses	317
Number of new Permanent Houses completed during the year:	
By the Local Authority	98
By Private Enterprise	44

(N.B.—No temporary houses have been erected by the local authority).

Number of dwelling-houses repaired as a result of action taken:

Informal action	6
Formal action	1

Owing to the shortage of building labour and materials it was not practicable to press the owners of working class dwelling-houses to carry out extensive repairs or reconditioning, but any such proposals submitted received consideration, and where the work was regarded as essential, a building licence was issued.

Six houses were completely reconditioned during the year, including one dealt with under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply.

Number of Cowkeepers or Purveyors of Milk on the registers (as at 31st December, 1948):—

Wholesale Purveyors	81
Retail Purveyors	19
Wholesale and Retail Purveyors	27
Retailers who are not cowkeepers	5
	132

INSPECTION.

Regular inspection is made of all registered premises and 426 visits were made during the year.

Efforts have again been made to encourage clean milk production by propaganda and by advisory visits.

64 Informal Notices were served in connection chiefly with lack of cleanliness and limewashing and these were all subsequently complied with.

IMPROVEMENTS.

Improvements carried out to cowsheds and dairies by informal action:—

New cowsheds constructed	2
Cowsheds reconditioned	4
Dairies reconditioned	3
New dairies constructed	4
New dairy equipment installed	5
Premises generally repaired and improved	4

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

The position remains the same as that outlined in the reports for the years 1939—1947 and the Newmarket Urban District's Inspector has again been assisted with the inspection work at the Government Abattoir when necessary.

93 inspections of slaughterhouses and butchers' shops were made during the year.

The figures for unsound meat condemned will be included in the report of the Urban District's Inspector and so as to avoid any overlapping no separate detailed figures for this district are given.

Regular inspection is made of premises where foodstuffs are stored or exposed for sale, and the following is a summary of the foodstuffs condemned during the year.

7 lbs. meat trimmings—(Bruising).
50 lbs. lamb's liver—(Decomposition).
7 stone herrings—(Decomposition).
8 lbs. cod—(Decomposition).
281 tins various Foodstuffs—(Blown or otherwise unfit).

PREMISES ON WHICH FOOD IS PREPARED.

47 premises are registered under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, 34 for the manufacture or sale of Preserved Foods, 1 for the manufacture, and 12 for the sale of Ice Cream.

166 inspections were made during the year and a high standard of cleanliness has again been maintained.

Every effort has been made to secure compliance with the requirements of the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment, etc.) Regulations, 1947. 3 samples of Ice Cream were submitted to the Public Analyst for bacteriological examination. The samples were examined by the Methylene Blue Test, 2 samples being reported as grade 1, and 1 as grade 3.

BAKEHOUSES.

There are 24 bakehouses in the district, and 79 inspections were made during the year.

A high standard of cleanliness has again been maintained.

LICENSED PREMISES.

86 inspections have been made and the following improvements effected as a result of informal action:—

New or improved sanitary accommodation	4
Complete decoration	2
New drainage	2
New glass washing facilities	1

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

There is nothing fresh to report under this heading.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1933.

The requirements of this Act are strictly enforced, and 37 licences were granted during the year.

FACTORIES.

The following is a summarised report on the administration of the Factories Act, 1937, in the district.

Number of Factories on the register:

Factories with mechanical power	53
Factories without mechanical power	8
	61

164 inspections were made, and 9 written notices served which were remedied without reference to H.M. Inspector of Factories or Legal Proceedings.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Measles and Whooping Cough (made notifiable in 1939) again accounted for most of the notifications. The total number of notifications of the principal infectious diseases during the last ten years (Civilian cases only) is shewn, for purposes of comparison, in the following table.

Year:	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948
Scarlet Fever	23	52	18	22	39	58	20	12	6	20
Diphtheria	2	2	5	2	—	—	1	—	—	—
Measles	—	106	627	2	249	23	134	36	143	57
Whooping Cough	10	127	29	47	9	2	82	32	46	52
Pneumonia	4	3	12	19	15	2	6	1	5	8
Typhoid Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1

It will be noted that during these years there has been no incidence of the major infectious diseases.

The single case of typhoid, in 1948, was that of a young woman who came to stay in the district and had contracted the disease before arrival. In this connection it is interesting to note that this is the first case of typhoid to be notified since the year 1933 and that between 1913 and 1933 there were 32 cases, most of them in parishes without a piped water supply.

It will also be seen that no cases of diphtheria have been notified since 1945. In 1931 there were 56 cases and one death, since then, apart from 1933, when there were 25 cases and three deaths, the incidence has been limited to a few sporadic cases. The old arrangements for diphtheria immunisation as set out in my report for 1942 are now redundant and as from July 4th, 1948, this matter became the sole responsibility of the County Council.

Analysis of Notifiable Diseases under age groups.

Disease.	Total cases notified.	At Ages—Years.												Cases Admitted to Hospital.	Deaths.
		—1	1—	2—	3—	4—	5—	10—	15—	20—	35—	45—	65—		
Scarlet Fever	20					3	15	2						11	
Measles	57	4	5	5	5	4	26	1	4	2	1			1	
Whooping Cough ...	52	7	4	5	6	7	19	4							
Pneumonia	8									2	1	3	2		8
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	1					1								1	
Puerperal Pyrexia	1									1					
Typhoid Fever	1									1				1	
Totals	140	11	9	10	11	15	60	7	4	6	2	3	2	14	8

TUBERCULOSIS

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1948.

Age Periods	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 ...				1				
1 ...			2	2				
5 ...		2		1				
15 ...	2	1	1					
25 ...	3	5	1	1			1	
35 ...								
45 ...	1							
65 & upwards								
Totals ...	6	8	4	5			1	

There were no deaths of persons not previously notified as suffering from tuberculosis. No action has been called for under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

ARTHUR MORGAN, M.A., M.R.C.S., D.P.H.